# OBSERVATIONS on the CURE of WOUNDS.

## Vide CLARE's Eſſay on the ART of HEALING.

IT is uſual in inciſed Wounds, or Cuts, to apply FRIARS BALSAM, or other ſpirituous Applications: Theſe give Pain and do Miſchief;----The Blood is the beſt Balſam, and the Air ſhould be excluded from the Wound: Slight Inciſions are eaſily cured by this ſimple Treatment. Pain is an Enemy to Healing, and it is a Maxim now generally received, that the *eaſieſt* Dreſſing is the beſt. Under this Idea the Art cannot be too much admired; a contrary Practice, however, ſtill prevails in ſome Places, and the old Diſcipline of *Precipitate*, and other *Corroſives*, of ancient Uſage, has ſome modern Advocates and Patrons. Such Practitioners proceed on a *falſe Principle* in deſtroying the riſing Granulations of Fleſh which appear in healing Wounds, and thus prevent all Advances towards a Cure. The Man of Science rejoyces at this Luxuriancy of Fleſh, called Granulation; whilſt the other is alarmed at what he terms *Fungus*, or *proud Fleſh*. The *precipitate* Dreſſings of the latter render the Wound ſloughy, painful, inflamed, and extended, which he conceives to be the Effect of bad Habit of Body, when in Truth it ariſes from bad Surgery; and he continues the Application of Cauſtics ſtill ſtronger, till Matters are become ſo alarming and difficult, he knows not what to do.

If at this Time a good Surgeon, or any other intelligent Perſon, happens to intervene, and to direct a lenient Poultice or Ointment, the Patient grows eaſy, and Things ſoon wear a more favorable Aſpect.

As well might a Builder think to raiſe a Houſe from the Ground, firſt throwing away the Materials and Foundation Stone, as a Surgeon to heal a Wound by deſtroying that granulating Appearance, which is to form the Baſis of a good and rational Cure.

We have been told that the healing Art is too much *ſimplified* of late; and ſo it may, for ſome of the Profeſſion, but I will venture to ſay, not for the general good of Mankind.